

Hamlin, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today honored Petty Officer V. Thomas Hetherington, a combat veteran of the Navy, as she presented him with medals honoring his combat service in Vietnam. Hetherington gave the medals that had been awarded to him years ago to his brother, a Marine, upon his death. Slaughter and her staff have worked to obtain the replacement medals.

Today Hetherington is being awarded 2 additional medals Slaughter's office discovered he was eligible for honoring his service in 7 of the 17 major campaigns in Vietnam: the Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation and the Korean Defense Service Medal.

"I'm so pleased to be here with Tom's friends and family to present him with these medals honoring his service to our country," said Slaughter. "Tom's time in the Navy took him into 7 of the 17 major campaigns in Vietnam. He has proven his selflessness time and time again and today I'm proud to present him with the combat service medals he rightly deserves."

"I am extremely grateful for the efforts of Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, especially her staffer, Jeffrey Sheridan," said Hetherington. "Congresswoman Slaughter was instrumental in ending my two year struggle to replace my medals, which I gave to my brother Nick's family to be included in his burial."

Hetherington completed 6 years of naval service including 2 tours in Vietnam aboard the USS Hornet. He also participated in the Apollo 11 and 12 recoveries and served 1 year with the Army National Guard 209th Field artillery.

Slaughter and Hetherington were joined today by friends and family along with representatives from the Rochester Naval Reserve Station and Vietnam Veterans of America.